

As we consider these wilderness proposals, we can generally rely upon existing standards and interpretations of the Wilderness Act. Thanks to our predecessors we have a wealth of guidance in the legislative history of the Wilderness Act and the more than 100 laws Congress has enacted since to protect additional lands.

Now, as we celebrate the 40th year of the Wilderness Act, the preservation of our wilderness has never been more important. Population growth, especially in the Western United States, is placing increased pressure on our public lands. That is why it was so critical that our leaders acted 40 years ago and why it is urgent that we continue to preserve our Nation's natural treasures today.

John Muir once said, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."

For 40 years, the Wilderness Act has entrusted Congress and the American people with the means to preserve that beauty.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN SENATE SERVICE PIN REGULATIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that in accordance with Title V of the Rules of Procedure of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the committee has updated the Senate Service Pin regulations effective September 22, 2004.

Based on the committee's review of the 1987 regulations which authorize the issuance of a staff service pin when a Senate staff member has served 12 years in the Senate, the Committee has concluded that service pins should be awarded to staff members who have served 20 years in the Senate and to those staff members who have served for 30 years.

Regulations adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration on September 22, 2004, to replace similar regulations approved by the Committee on September 23, 1987, pursuant to S. Res. 21, agreed to September 10, 1965, relative to the awarding of service pins to Members, officers, and employees of the Senate:

1. Service pins of the material and design suggested by the Secretary of the Senate and approved by the leadership of the Senate and the Committee on Rules and Administration, together with appropriate Certificates of service signed by the Secretary of the Senate, shall be procured and awarded by the Secretary of the Senate.

2. Each Member of the Senate and each elected officer of the Senate shall receive his/her pin and certificate upon taking office.

3. Each employee of the Senate shall receive a pin and certificate after the completion of 12, 20, and 30 years on the Senate payroll.

4. Senate service shall be limited to all service—whether continuous or not—performed while on the Senate payroll.

5. Former employees of the Senate are not covered unless they were on the Senate payroll on or after September 22, 2004, and were otherwise qualified.

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6. After the initial award of pins and certificates, the Secretary of the Senate shall arrange for presentation of subsequent awards to those who qualify pursuant to the pertinent provisions of this regulation.

7. Each individual who qualifies will receive a pin and certificate and no additional pins will be subsequently awarded to such individuals for more than 30 years of Senate service, except that appropriate date plates and/or seals may be presented by the Secretary of the Senate at termination of service.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I today publicly recognize the importance of National Hispanic Heritage Month. This 30-day observance begins September 15th, the independence day of five Latin American countries, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and includes Mexico's Independence Day, September 16, as well as Chile's day of Independence, September 18.

Despite that Hispanic Americans have played important roles in our great nation for the last five centuries, it wasn't until the 1960s that this legislative body officially honored the Hispanic ethnic legacy. In 1968 Congress voted to name the week including September 15 and 16 National Hispanic Heritage Week, and in 1988 Congress passed Public Law 100-402, expanding National Hispanic Heritage Week to a 30-day celebration.

Hispanic individuals have made immeasurable contributions to America in many fields. Dr. Severo Ochoa discovered RNA, Ribonucleic acid, and as a result won the Nobel Prize and set the foundations of many of today's medical technologies. Cesar Chavez made great strides in worker's rights, and more than three dozen Hispanic Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor for their military service to our country.

America, the great melting pot, has always taken pride in her diversity. Over 10,000 of my constituents are of Hispanic origin, and approximately 40 million Hispanics call America home, making them the United States' largest minority group. It is with great honor that I bring attention to National Hispanic Heritage Month and the contributions of the Hispanic people.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORT AND EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Special Olympics and Empowerment Act of 2004. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation which will create a multi-million dollar authorization, over 5 years, for the Special Olympics. This crucial funding will expand the scope of the Special Olympics by offering more children and adults with disabilities the

opportunity to join in the life-changing events of the Special Olympics program.

The oath of the Special Olympics is "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." This mission of this program certainly rings true to the spirit of America and beyond. More than one million athletes and 500,000 volunteers participate in Special Olympics world-wide. Also, in my State of Montana, the Special Olympics signifies a real success: during the last year over 2,000 Special Olympics athletes participated and they could choose from as many as fourteen Olympic-style sports.

It is important to me that Montanans with developmental and intellectual disabilities have access to recreational opportunities that will not only improve their health and well-being, but also promote mental and emotional strength. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Special Olympics.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BEN WOODMAN

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to and congratulate Ben Woodman of Berea, KY on being awarded a Boren Undergraduate Scholarship from the David L. Boren National Security Education Program, NSEP.

Mr. Woodman was one of 181 applicants nationwide to receive one of these scholarships. NSEP is administered within the National Defense University in the Department of Defense. It funds outstanding U.S. students to study critical languages and world regions in exchange for a commitment to seek employment with the Federal Government in the arena of national security.

Mr. Woodman has been studying Arabic and will spend the year in Egypt. He attends the University of Kentucky and is majoring in international economics and Arabic.

The citizens of Madison County should be proud to have a man like Ben Woodman in their community. His example of dedication and hard work should be an inspiration to the entire Commonwealth. He has my most sincere admiration for this work and I look forward to his continued service to the United States.●

TRIBUTE TO ANTOINE PETTWAY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the achievements of Antoine Pettway on the occasion of his being honored by his high school, Wilcox Central High School, in Camden, AL. During ceremonies for Mr. Pettway, the Mayor of Camden, Henrietta Blackmon, presented him with a key to the city and a series of speakers praised their native son for his skills on the basketball court and for his